

# SECRET INVASION™

**MARVEL**

31

DAVID  
CUCCA  
ACUNZO  
GIARDO

# She-HULK®







SHE-HULK



Jazinda



Monet St. Croix

Jennifer Walters always thought that being a lawyer was in her blood...until a gamma-irradiated blood transfusion (from her cousin Bruce Banner) gave her the ability to change into the world's (not-so) meanest, (but ever-so) greenest ~~superheroine~~:

Bounty Hunter!

# She-HULK

Freed from her recent incarceration in the Cleveland City Jail, She-Hulk teamed with a road-tripping Hercules to defeat a 50-foot-tall Celtic demigod (the guard-for-hire Bran in his true form), who was rampaging through the city. Meanwhile, Jen's bounty-hunting partner **Jazinda** (who just happens to be the shape-shifting daughter of Kl'rt the Super-Skrull), learned that Bran had been working with an unnamed group who have "taken an interest" in our green glamazon.

Afterwards, Jazinda had a sudden premonition concerning a mysterious "Talisman" that led her and She-Hulk to Detroit, Michigan, where they collided with the mutant private investigators known as **X-Factor**!

Note For All True Believers: This story takes place immediately following **X-FACTOR #33**...so go read that first!

Writer PETER DAVID welcomes the new art team of...

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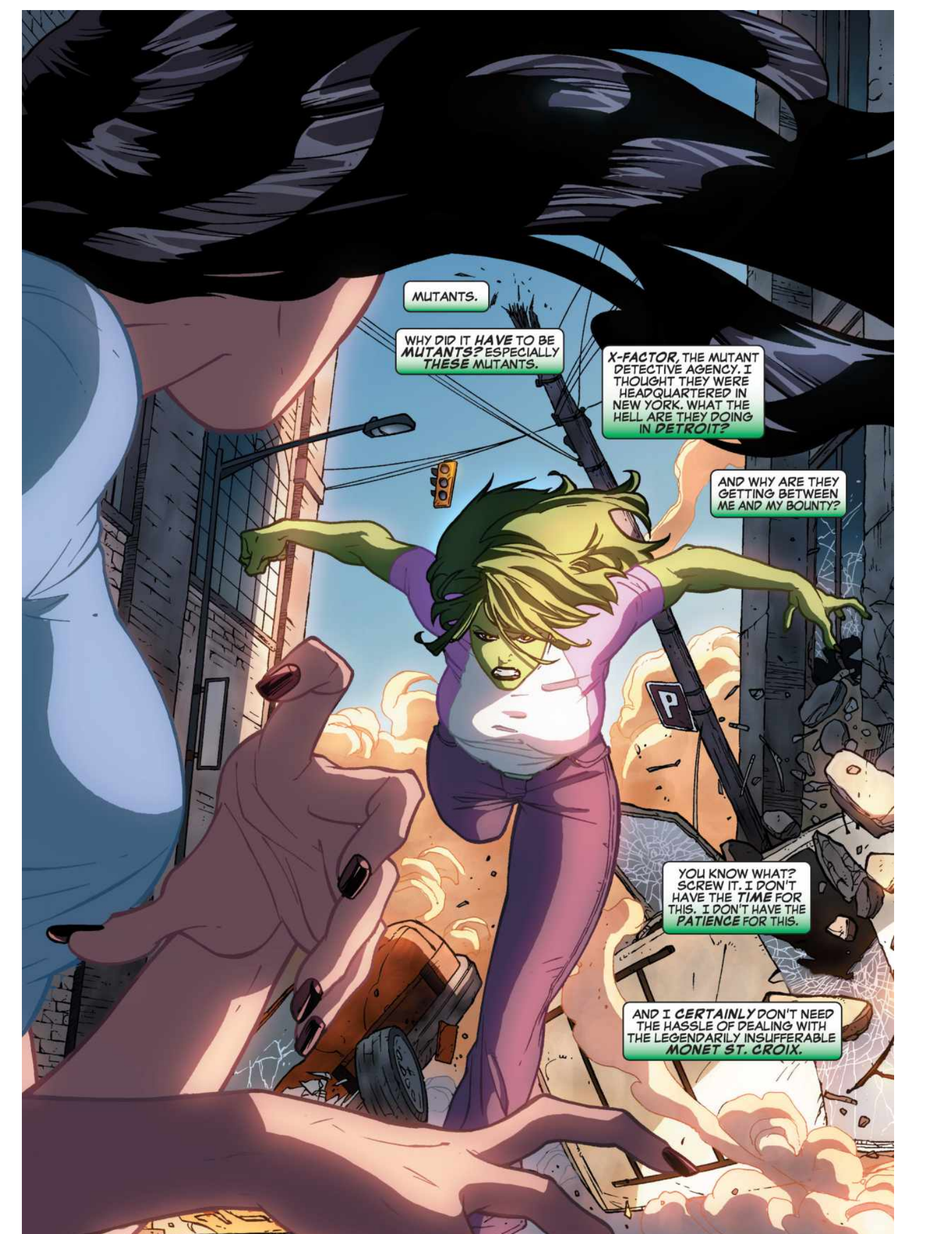
DAN BUCKLEY



Darwin







MUTANTS.

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE  
MUTANTS? ESPECIALLY  
THESE MUTANTS.

X-FACTOR, THE MUTANT  
DETECTIVE AGENCY. I  
THOUGHT THEY WERE  
HEADQUARTERED IN  
NEW YORK. WHAT THE  
HELL ARE THEY DOING  
IN DETROIT?

AND WHY ARE THEY  
GETTING BETWEEN  
ME AND MY BOUNTY?

YOU KNOW WHAT?  
SCREW IT. I DON'T  
HAVE THE TIME FOR  
THIS. I DON'T HAVE THE  
PATIENCE FOR THIS.

AND I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED  
THE HASSLE OF DEALING WITH  
THE LEGENDARILY INSUFFERABLE  
MONET ST. CROIX.





I DON'T HAVE THE TIME FOR THIS. I DON'T HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR THIS.

AND I CERTAINLY DON'T NEED THE HASSLE OF DEALING WITH THE LEGENDARILY INSUFFERABLE SHE-HULK.



GET DOWN HERE.

WHY ARE YOU GETTING IN OUR WAY?? OF WHAT POSSIBLE INTEREST IS DARWIN TO YOU?

DARWIN? WHO THE HELL IS DARWIN?

THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR. LISTEN, OBVIOUSLY WE'RE OPERATING AT CROSS-PURPOSES HERE. I SEE NO POINT IN POUNDING ON EACH OTHER UNTIL WE INEVITABLY SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES AND WORK TOGETHER.

SO I'M SORRY AS ALL GET-OUT IF THIS DISAPPOINTS YOU...



...BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO THIS. UNDERSTAND? WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO THIS.



**SPLASH**





YEAH.  
OKAY.

NOW WE'RE  
GOING TO DO  
THIS.

PART OF ME IS  
SHOUTING AT  
ME. TELLING ME  
I'M AN IDIOT,  
BECAUSE MONET  
IS RIGHT. THIS IS  
POINTLESS AND  
RIDICULOUS.



BUT PART OF ME WELCOMES IT.  
SAYING THAT SHE'S RIGHT.







**OUTSIDE DETROIT.  
SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER...**

JAZINDA,  
THIS IS INSANE.  
YOU'RE DRIVING  
LIKE YOU'RE IN THE  
INDY 500, YOU'VE  
SUDDENLY STARTED  
SPEAKING FLUENT  
"CRYPTIC"...



YOU HAVE  
TO TRUST ME,  
JENNIFER.

I DO  
TRUST YOU, J.  
BUT IF YOU WON'T  
TELL ME WHAT'S  
GOING ON, IT SAYS  
THAT YOU DON'T  
TRUST ME.



...  
THEY'RE  
COMING. WE'RE  
COMING. THE  
SKRULLS.

SOON.  
EVERY-  
WHERE.

WHEN?  
WHERE?



WELL...OKAY,  
BUT...THEY'LL BE  
STOPPED. THE  
AVENGERS, THE  
FF, THEY LIVE FOR  
THIS STUFF...

NO.

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
"NO"?



IT'S THE  
OPPOSITE  
OF "YES."

THEY WON'T  
STOP IT. THIS HAS  
BEEN PLANNED TOO  
LONG, TOO THOROUGHLY.  
NEW YORK IS GROUND  
ZERO, BUT IT'S GOING TO  
BE SIMULTANEOUS AND  
WORLDWIDE AND  
UNSTOPPABLE.

AND  
YOU'VE  
KNOWN  
ABOUT  
THIS?

YES.



"YES"?!  
WHAT DO  
YOU M--?

IT'S THE  
OPPOSITE  
OF "NO."











TERRIFIC.  
I HOPE  
YOU'RE  
HAPPY,  
JENNI--

OOOOOOOF!



HOW  
DARE  
YOU!

YOU ACT LIKE  
MY FRIEND AND  
THEN YOU KEEP  
THIS FROM  
ME!



I AM  
YOUR FRIEND,  
YOU IDIOT.

YEAH?  
OKAY, HERE'S  
A COUPLE OF  
GUIDELINES  
TO BEING A  
FRIEND...



ONE: FRIENDS  
DON'T LET OTHER  
FRIENDS DRIVE  
DRUNK.

TWO: FRIENDS  
GIVE YOU A HEADS  
UP WHEN ALIENS  
ARE ABOUT TO TURN  
YOUR PLANET INTO A  
REAL-LIFE VERSION  
OF "SPACE  
INVADERS"!



I DIDN'T  
KNOW.

WHAT,  
NOW YOU'RE  
CHANGING YOUR  
STORY?

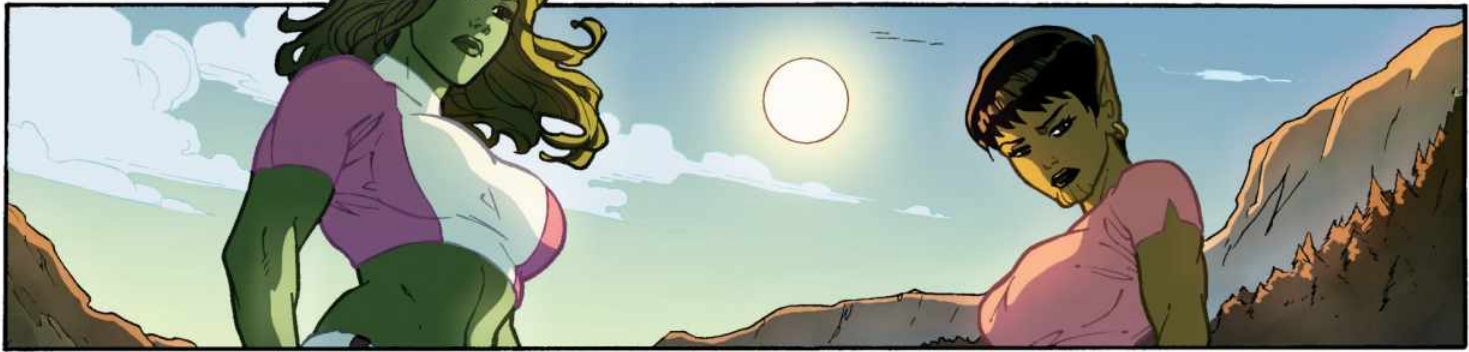
THE INVASION WAS CONCEIVED  
YEARS AGO, BUT THERE WERE  
FACTIONS IN THE SKRULL  
EMPIRE THAT OPPOSED IT.  
I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD  
EVER HAPPEN.

OBVIOUSLY  
THOSE FACTIONS  
CHANGED THEIR  
MINDS, OR WERE  
SIMPLY















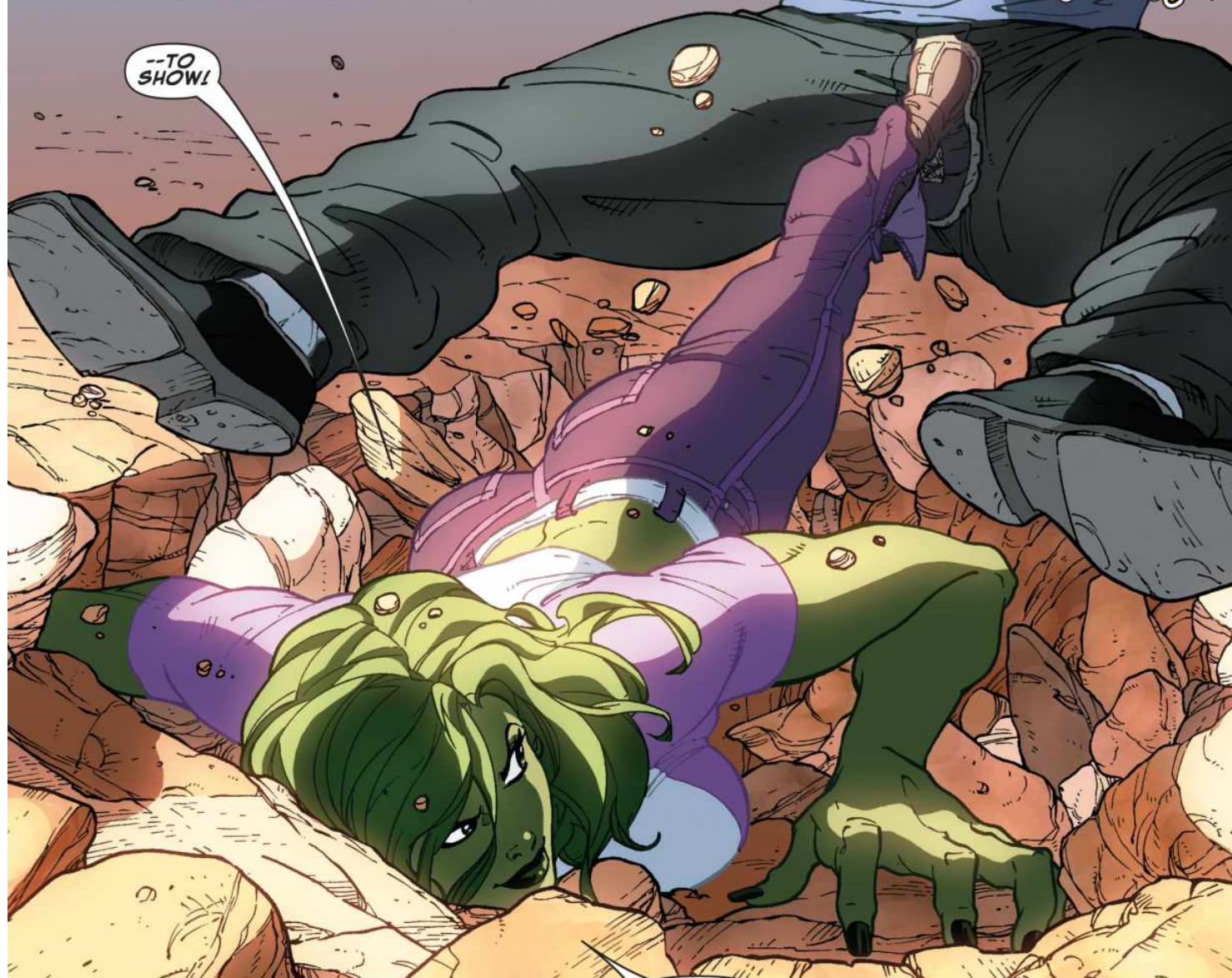


MORE  
FRIENDS. MORE  
RESOURCES.

AND MORE  
GOIN' FOR HER  
THAN YOU'LL  
EVER HAVE!

BA-WOOM!



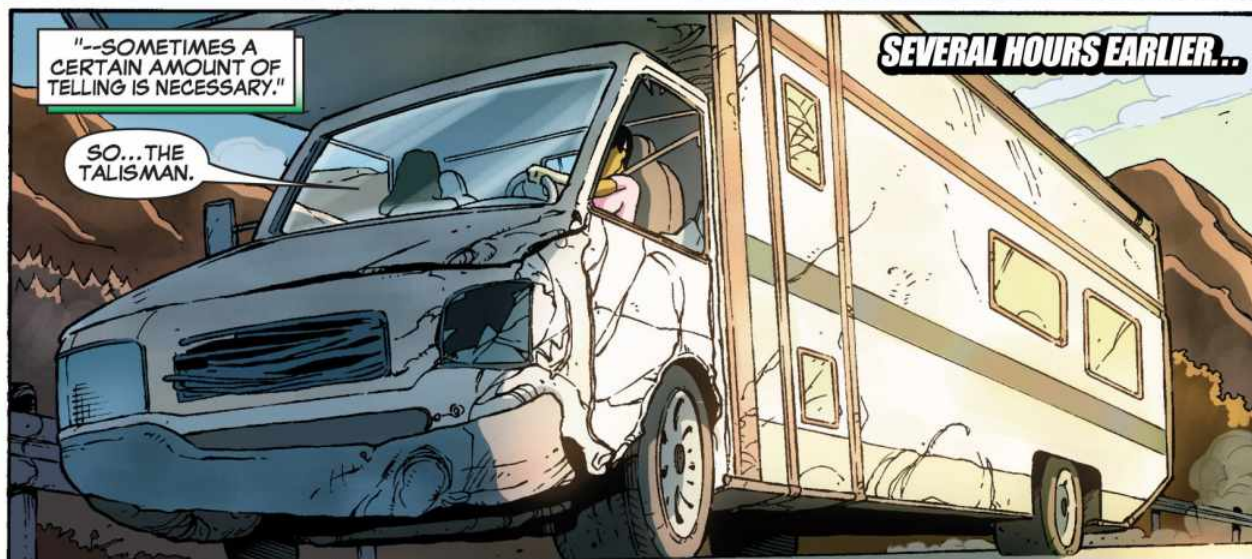




"--SOMETIMES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TELLING IS NECESSARY."

SO...THE TALISMAN.

SEVERAL HOURS EARLIER...



HIS NAME IS NOGOR.

HE'S A SKRULL?

YES. THE HOLIEST OF SKRULLS. ONE STEP BELOW THE GODS THEMSELVES.

SKRULLS HAVE A RELIGION?

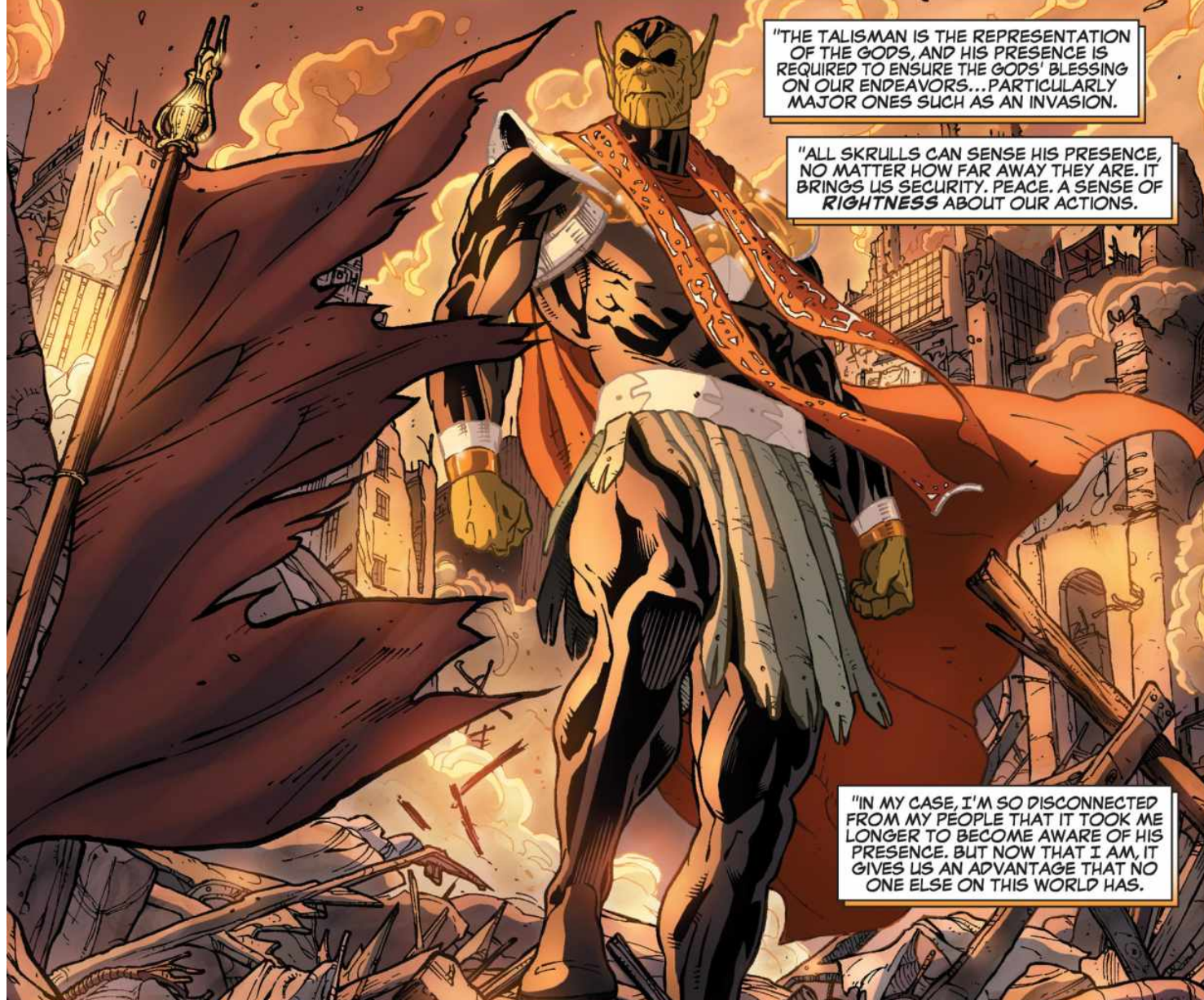
OHhh YES. GODS AND EVERYTHING.



"THE TALISMAN IS THE REPRESENTATION OF THE GODS, AND HIS PRESENCE IS REQUIRED TO ENSURE THE GODS' BLESSING ON OUR ENDEAVORS... PARTICULARLY MAJOR ONES SUCH AS AN INVASION.

"ALL SKRULLS CAN SENSE HIS PRESENCE, NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY THEY ARE. IT BRINGS US SECURITY. PEACE. A SENSE OF RIGHTNESS ABOUT OUR ACTIONS.

"IN MY CASE, I'M SO DISCONNECTED FROM MY PEOPLE THAT IT TOOK ME LONGER TO BECOME AWARE OF HIS PRESENCE. BUT NOW THAT I AM, IT GIVES US AN ADVANTAGE THAT NO ONE ELSE ON THIS WORLD HAS.







"MY PEOPLE KEEP THE TALISMAN AWAY FROM THE MAIN AREA OF FIGHTING BECAUSE IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO HIM, THE LOSS TO MORALE WOULD BE INCALCULABLE. IT WOULD MEAN THE GODS HAVE ABANDONED US."



"BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THE INVASION HINGES ON OUR MORAL CERTITUDE THAT OUR ACTIONS ARE BLESSED BY THE GODS. WITHOUT THAT, WE COULDN'T PROCEED."

"CAPTURE THE TALISMAN... THREATEN THE TALISMAN..."



"HELL, KILL THE TALISMAN IF NECESSARY..."

"...AND WE CAN STOP THIS INVASION BEFORE IT STARTS."

**NOW...**



"SO. THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE HIDING OUT, TRAITOR."

"THE GODS HAVE TURNED YOU OVER TO US."



"REALLY. CONSIDERING WHO'S HOLDING THE GUN, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU AND THE GODS MIGHT NOT BE QUITE ON THE SAME PAGE."



PUT  
THE GUN  
DOWN.

PLEASE.

LONG STORY  
SHORT, KID: HE'S  
A SKRULL.

YEAH?  
WHAT DO  
YOU KNOW  
ABOUT IT?



MORE  
THAN YOU  
DO.  
NOW  
STEP  
ASIDE.



NO...  
THIS  
IS...

FINE. I  
DON'T HAVE  
TIME FOR--



OOOOFF!

ZZKOOOM

CHOOOM



J?  
CAN YOU  
HEAR ME?  
REPORT.



J?  
DAMMIT!

LONGSHOT,  
WHERE'S THE  
REST OF THE  
TEAM?

THIS  
WAY!

OKAY...I THINK SHE  
HEADED OFF IN THIS  
DIRECTION. IF I CAN--



OH, NOW  
WHAT?

NOW YOU  
STOP ACTING LIKE  
A CURVIER VERSION  
OF YOUR COUSIN AND  
TELL US IN A CALM,  
RATIONAL MANNER  
WHAT THE HELL IS  
GOING ON.

OR WHAT?  
YOU'LL BEAT IT  
OUT OF ME?



WELL, IT'S  
NOT THE "A"  
PLAN, BUT I  
WILL IF I  
HAVE TO.

That's  
tellin' 'er,  
boss...



YOU KNOW  
WHAT, MADROX?  
YOU'RE A BORING  
GUY WHOSE POWER  
IS TO TURN INTO  
A LOT OF BORING  
GUYS.



HERE'S A  
THOUGHT: HOW  
ABOUT YOU TAKE  
MY WORD THAT  
THE FUTURE OF THE  
PLANET IS AT  
STAKE, AND LEAVE  
IT AT THAT?









...OR AN  
ANGRY  
MOB?

GO AHEAD,  
SHE-HULK. TELL ME  
HOW YOU'VE GOT THE  
STRENGTH OF A  
HUNDRED MEN.

OR TWO  
HUNDRED, HELL,  
MAKE IT A  
THOUSAND.

DOESN'T  
MATTER HOW  
MANY YOU  
SAY...

...I'LL  
MATCH THAT  
AND ADD ONE  
MORE!

THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.  
I SHOULD HAVE DONE  
EXACTLY WHAT MONET  
SUGGESTED. INSTEAD I  
GAVE IN TO THE IMPULSE  
TO SLUG IT OUT, AND  
LOOK WHERE IT GOT ME.  
THE PLANET'S IN PERIL,  
AND I'M NEEDLESSLY  
HAMPERED BY A  
DOGPILING MUTANT.





WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING TO ME? FIRST I JUMP HERCULES' BONES AND THEN LEAVE HIM IN THE DUST...

AND NOW I LEAD WITH MY FISTS INSTEAD OF MY HEAD.



WE CAN'T LET OURSELVES GET DISTRACTED FROM OUR FIRST PRIORITY, MONET: FINDING DARWIN.

A COUPLE OF MY DUPES ARE MOVING IN ON HIM, BUT I DON'T WANT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES. ESPECIALLY IF LONGSHOT'S TRAVELING WITH HIM.

GO ROUND HIM UP.

FINE. BUT I WANT ANOTHER CRACK AT SHE-HULK BEFORE THIS IS OVER.

AND THEN I HEAR THAT, AND ALL THOUGHTS OF ANYTHING EXCEPT MORE FIGHTING GO RIGHT OUT OF MY HEAD.



I'M STARTING TO WONDER WHETHER THERE'S MORE GOING ON WITH ME THAN I WANT TO ADMIT.

IT'S LIKE I'M BECOMING SOMEONE ELSE.



AND I HAVE TO SAY, WHOEVER SHE IS...

I KIND OF



BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF THIS. WHY WOULD SHE SAY YOU'RE A SKRULL?

SHE'S A SKRULL HERSELF! YOU SAW THAT. HER KIND WILL SAY ANYTHING TO--



DARWIN! LONGSHOT!

MONET! I... I WAS GOING TO CIRCLE BACK... MAKE SURE YOU WERE OKAY--



I'M ALWAYS OKAY.

I'M GLAD I MANAGED TO CATCH UP WITH YOU.



WHAT I DON'T GET IS YOU, LONGSHOT. WHERE THE HELL DID YOU COME FROM?

OH, MY HOOKING UP WITH DARWIN WAS JUST ONE OF THOSE LUCKY THINGS THAT HAPPEN TO ME.

She touched me. Monet touched me. And she was glad.



WHAT?

NOTHING. UH...

THERE WAS THIS SKRULL WOMAN. AND SHE SAID THAT LONGSHOT WAS A SKRULL.



A SKRULL?

YES. ISN'T THAT THE MOST RIDICULOUS THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD?











TO BE CONTINUED IN  
**X-FACTOR #34!**





# The Hand